

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An apparatus, comprising:  
a server transmitting a cookie;  
a client receiving the cookie and issuing a device command responsive to the cookie; and  
a device performing an operation responsive to the command.
2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein a result of the operation by the device is communicated to the server by the client.
3. An apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the client comprises:  
an operating system;  
a browser storing the cookie in a cookies file and communicating result data to the server; and  
a device interface agent application accessing the cookie, controlling the device responsive to command data of the cookie and providing the result data to the browser through the operating system.
4. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein the device makes a measurement external to the client.
5. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein the device makes a measurement of the client computer.
6. An apparatus, comprising:  
a packet switched communication network  
a server transmitting a cookie over the network;  
a controlled device performing an operation responsive to a device command and producing a result of the operation; and  
a client coupled to the controlled device, receiving the cookie and issuing the device command to the controlled device responsive to the cookie and communicating to the server over the network, the client comprising:  
an operating system;  
a cookie storage;  
a browser storing the cookie in the cookie storage and

a device interface agent application accessing the cookie, controlling the controlled device responsive to command data of the cookie and providing the result data to the browser through the operating system; and the controlled device performing an operation responsive to the cookie where a result of the operation by the controlled device is communicated to the server by the client.

a packet switched communication network

sending a cookie,

a client coupled to the controlled device, receiving the cookie and issuing the device command to the controlled device responsive to the cookie and communicating to the server over the network, the client comprising:

a cookie storage;

a display device displaying color patches as instructed by the applet; and

a device interface agent application accessing the cookie, controlling the controlled device responsive to command data of the cookie and providing the result data to the browser through the operating system; and

the controlled device performing a color measurement responsive to the cookie where the color measurement by the controlled device is communicated to the server by the client.

8. A method, comprising:

loading a limited access file from a remote location with data; and performing an operation responsive to the data contents of the

limited access file.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the limited access file comprises a cookies file and the data comprises a cookie having a command therein and the operation is performed responsive to the command.

10. A method, comprising:

executing a limited access application to store data; and

performing an operation responsive to the data.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the limited access application comprises an applet.

12. A method of controlling an external device comprising sending a cookie from a server to a client and initiating control of the device via the client through the cookie.

13. A method of facilitating communication between a client computer and server computer, comprising:

writing a limited access file to the client computer with data from the server computer;

running a background program on the client computer to read the limited access file and communicate with other computer programs; and

operating an external device in accordance with a command from the server contained in the limited access file.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising operating an external device to gather data.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

operating the external device to send data gathered to the background program; and

using the background computer program to send the data gathered through the operating system to the browser; and

sending the data to another computer via the browser.

16. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising operating the external device to send data previously gathered to another computer.

17. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising an applet

that writes to limited access files.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising operating the external device to gather data.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

operating the external device to send the data gathered to the background program; and

using the background computer program to send the data gathered through the operating system to the applet.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the applet sends the data received to another computer.

21. A computer readable storage controlling a computer via loading a limited access cookie file from a remote location with a cookie containing a command, and performing an operation commanded by the command.

22. A computer readable data structure controlling a computer via a cookies file containing a cookie containing a computer command.